

TRIUMPH OF THE ECONOMIC
VIRTUES 229

towards the grave—a wilderness to be
subdued with
aching limbs beneath solitary stars.
Through it he
must take his way, alone. No aid can avail
him : no
preacher, for only the elect can apprehend
with the
spirit the word of God ; no Church, for to
the visible
Church even reprobates belong ; no
sacrament, for
sacraments are ordained to increase the
glory of God,
not to minister spiritual nourishment to
man ; hardly
God himself, for Christ died for the elect, and
it may well
be that the majesty of the Creator is
revealed by the
eternal damnation of all but a remnant
of the
created."

His life is that of a soldier in hostile
territory. He
suffers in spirit the perils which the first
settlers in
America endured in body, the sea behind,
the untamed
desert in front, a cloud of inhuman enemies
on either
hand. Where Catholic and Anglican had
caught a
glimpse of the invisible, hovering like a
consecration
over the gross world of sense, and touching
its muddy
vesture with the unearthly gleam of a
divine, yet
familiar, beauty, the Puritan mourned for a
lost Paradise
and a creation sunk in sin. Where they
had seen
society as a mystical body* compact of
members varying
in order and degree, but dignified by
participation in
the common life of Christendom, he saw a
bleak anti-

thesis between the spirit which
quickeneth and an
alien, indifferent or hostile world. Where
they had
reverenced the decent order whereby past
was knit to
present, and man to man, and man to God,
through
fellowship in works of charity, in festival
and fast, in
the prayers and ceremonies of the Church, he
turned with
horror from the filthy rags of human
righteousness.
Where they, in short, had found comfort in a
sacrament,
he started back from a snare set to
entrap his soul*

We receive but what we give,
And in our life alone does Nature live.

Too often, contemning the external order as
unspiritual,